

# Genghis Khan and Mongolia

## 東洋と西洋を統合した国のいま

世界一の英雄はだれかとなるといろんな意見がでるだろうが、チンギス・ハーンを推すのがいちばん妥当ではないだろうか。なぜかという、彼こそ東洋と西洋を征服し、この二つの世界を初めて一つにした人だからである。彼はモンゴルに生まれ、騎馬を駆使して東西に遠征を繰り返した。20世紀においては、モンゴルはソ連について第2番目に誕生した社会主義国だったが、モンゴルがソ連の傘から独立したいま、ようやくチンギス・ハーン研究の自由を得ている。

If the name Genghis Khan (1162–1227) reminds you of the savory smell of barbecued Mongolian mutton, you must be a gourmet, but today, I would like to introduce you to the magnificent life of a world-famous hero rather than the barbecue. Although there are many heroes and heroic women in history, Genghis Khan is considered one of the world's greatest heroes. He was a great warrior who almost completely conquered the vast Eurasian Continent and was the first person to unify the East and the West.

Genghis Khan was born in Mongolia. Located between Russia and China, it consists of highlands which are an average of 1,580 meters above sea level. In winter, the temperature drops to 25°C–45°C below freezing. Genghis Khan was the son of a tribal chief in an area close to the source of three rivers in the northern part of the country. He unified the neighboring tribes one after another and eventually occupied the greatest land of the East, China. Then he went west, gained control of Central Asia, advanced to Russia and defeated powerful enemies like Persia.

There are four reasons why Genghis Khan's army was so overwhelming. First of all, they rode fast horses and used effective weapons such as bows and arrows and catapults. Second, if a defeated enemy soldier showed exceptional ability, Genghis Khan would enlist him into his army and promote him. Third, his army always moved with a large flock of sheep, so food was never a problem. Finally, though he believed in Shamanism, he respected other religions and avoided religious confrontations.

Genghis Khan died on the battlefield. Even with the full use of 21st century science, we still cannot locate his grave. Although no clues exist, some people think that a tomb lies deep in the soil of Mongolia or Central Asia. It has been said that the